



CITY OF OREM

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY SERVICES

June 1, 2011
Donna Jones Morris, Director
State Library Division
Department of Community and Culture

Dear Ms. Morris,

I'm writing to give my endorsement for the Orem Public Library expansion project, and to ask for your support of this grant proposal.

The Orem Public Library is truly a gem in our city. Highly used and greatly valued for its collections, programs, and services, the Library serves the residents of Orem as well as those of neighboring communities which have no libraries of their own.

The Library offers cultural programming that is unique in all of Utah Valley. In recent years, attendance at these programs has far exceeded the capacity of our present facility. The new auditorium and meeting rooms will greatly enhance our ability to provide quality cultural and educational experiences, and will allow the Library to reach its full potential as a center for lifelong learning. I whole-heartedly endorse this project and ask for your support as recommendations are made to the State Legislature.

Thank you for your service to the residents of Orem and to the larger library community in the State of Utah.

Sincerely,

Bruce W. Chesnut, City Manager
City of Orem

Letters of Support

The Center for Story

I enthusiastically support Orem's Center for Story as a place for our community to experience rich cultural events that feed the mind and soul. Spaces like this provide countless opportunities for us to encounter art that challenges us to remember, at the most basic levels, who we are and who we want to become.

Matthew Holland, President
Utah Valley University

I am beyond excited for the Center for Story. Chauntenette Women's Chorus has existed as a non-profit service organization in Orem for over sixty five years. We have rehearsed and performed in a multitude of places from a mortuary, schools, churches, tabernacles, outside, homes, and the library. Many of these places now charge from \$80 to \$130 an hour. What a blessing it would be to have a home at the Center for Story. We can hardly wait.

Margaret Barfuss
Musical Director
Chauntenette Women's Chorus

As a founding member of the Orem Arts Council, and as chairperson of the council for its initial 2 years, I am keenly aware of the needs of Orem's cultural arts community. The performing arts, the literary arts, and the traditional art of storytelling all desperately need a facility in Orem -- a facility in which artists can create and perform, and in which patrons can experience -- a center for stories -- those performed and those told.

The Center for Story provides us with a unique opportunity to raise cultural arts to a new level in Orem. It places the arts at the center of our community -- connected to our library which actively preserves and promotes the very best of our cultural, literary, and artistic heritage.

This is a tremendous opportunity, but we need your help to make it happen. Please support The Center for Story and Art. You are welcome to contact me with any questions that may arise.

Ronda Walker Weaver, Founding Member
Orem Arts Council
801-836-5271

Letters of Support, continued

The Center for Story

We are writing in support of Orem's new Center for Story. As a small arts organization, Resonance Story Theatre would benefit greatly by finding a permanent home in the Center for Story. To have performance and rehearsal space in the heart of Orem would be a dream come true. Our ties have always been strong in Orem. We were created through the generous support of the Orem CARE tax grant program and continue to partner with other educational and art organizations in the Orem area, so we feel this is another opportunity to strengthen those ties. We also feel this is another way for us to serve the people of Orem, not only through offering some free performances, but also by expanding our outreach programs into the community through the Center for Story facility. We are always amazed at the vision Orem City has with the arts and are grateful to be a part of this community.

Resonance Story Theatre
Wendy Gourley, Managing Director
Nannette Watts, Artistic Director

I am excited about Orem's consideration of developing a Center for Story facility. Since our job as authors is to help create and spread story, we feel close to this project. We have spent a lot of time working with the Orem Library in getting kids excited about books and stories. We have presented programs, done readings, done workshops at the library and we believe that the plans as being considered will allow for even more positive, effective activities.

As a group of authors, if such a facility were to be built, we would be able to sponsor workshops, hold more writing groups, have more readings, have conferences, all of which are popular among residents of the area who are interested in writing, and in books, and with kids who love to hear stories and love to meet some of their favorite authors.

Some of the reasons we are particularly interested in the Orem Library facility--the location is great. It's a beautiful area, a beautiful library, it's easily accessible from anywhere, there is plenty of food available in the event of all day workshop. The space is the hardest thing to find when we are planning these types of events. A good affordable space where we could pay for use either through reasonable fees or through in kind service as in free workshops and readings and such would be very valuable and very positive.

I could see this facility becoming a center point for the Utah Writers of Literature for Young Readers because of the benefits that it would offer we would find it an ideal location for holding events that could in turn enrich the community in Orem, provide opportunities for the citizens of Orem to increase their creative skills, to experience literature from its source, and to just have fun with books.

Rick Walton, Children's Author
rick@rickwalton.com



CITY OF OREM

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY SERVICES

September 24, 2009

Donna Jones Morris, Director
State Library Division
Department of Community and Culture

Dear Ms. Morris,

On behalf of the Library Advisory Commission, I'm writing to urge your support for The Center for Story and Art.

The Orem Public Library is at the heart of our community - a vibrant place where patrons of all ages come to be educated, informed, and inspired. Cultural programs offered at the Library are rich and diverse; they open doors for exploration of the collection and of the ideas embodied therein; they support lifelong learning; they promote critical exploration of issues, and they encourage informed dialogue. They are an essential component of modern library service in our community.

Our present facility has become grossly inadequate, and it can no longer accommodate the large number of patrons who come to participate from Orem and from surrounding communities in Utah County. The Center for Story and Art has become a critical need.

The Library Advisory Commission unanimously supports this project, and we ask for your support as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gina Clark, Chair
Library Advisory Commission
Orem Public Library



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

LIBRARY

Donna Jones Morris, Director
State Library Division
Utah Department of Community and Culture

September 16, 2009

Dear Ms. Morris,

We are writing to you in support of the Orem Public Library's facility proposal, The Center for Story and Art.

It has been our pleasure to partner with the Orem Public Library in sponsoring cultural programs in Orem, with speakers and performing arts groups presenting at both Utah Valley University and at the Orem Public Library. Partner programs have included KUT, the folk music group presenting songs and stories from their native Kyrgystan; Dr. Rex Ellis, Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, addressing diversity and race relations; Fred Adams, founder of the Utah Shakespearean Festival, speaking on the importance of literacy; Dr. William Sederberg, past president of the University, presenting on the importance of civic engagement; and Dr. Edith Gelles from Stanford University, speaking on her recently published work, *John and Abigail Adams: Portrait of a Marriage*.

These programs and others like them sustain the very fabric of an informed and educated citizenry and they enrich the quality of life for us all. Utah Valley University is committed to building such partnerships which make academic scholarship and research more accessible to the entire community.

The proposed Center for Story and Art includes a civic auditorium, a facility which is sorely needed to accommodate the large audiences who desire to participate in these cultural programs. This new facility will be a great boon to the community and we wholeheartedly endorse this project.

We urge you to support inclusion of the Orem Public Library's Center for Story and Art in the priorities for capital facilities projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Michael J. Freeman'.

Michael J. Freeman, director

Utah Valley University Library